

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and associated apparatus for rapidly and efficiently updating, from a remote location, selected software that is resident on a plurality of networked computing devices that may be dissimilar. In an illustrative embodiment, in which the updated version is resident at a prescribed address on an Internet web server that is accessible through the backbone network, each of the computing devices is provided with an additional radio interface adapted for Bluetooth transmission. Bluetooth messages may be sent to each of
10 the devices from a suitable command source, illustratively a handheld Bluetooth terminal. After the terminal has determined, through conventional Bluetooth inquiries, which of the networked computing devices contains the relevant software, the terminal issues a suitable Bluetooth service request message to discover a first subset of such devices that contains an outdated version of such software. The terminal then transmits a Bluetooth message
15 informing each device in such first subset of the web server address where the updated version resides, and commands such device to download the updated version from the relevant address.